

5. (Amended) The apparatus according to [any preceding] claim 1, wherein the apparatus includes a display device to allow a user to view a target area using the imaging device.

6. (Amended) The apparatus according to [any preceding] claim 1, wherein the apparatus includes a pan and tilt unit for panning and tilting of the range finder and/or imaging device.

9. (Amended) The apparatus according to [any one of] claim[s] 6 [to 8], wherein the pan and tilt unit includes first and second digital encoders for measuring the angles of pan and tilt respectively.

11. (Amended) The apparatus according to [any preceding] claim 1, wherein the image is digitised.

12. (Amended) The apparatus according to [any preceding] claim 1, wherein the image comprises a plurality of pixels.

13. (Amended) The apparatus according to [any preceding] claim 1, wherein the image comprises a captured image.

14. (Amended) The apparatus according to [any preceding] claim 1, wherein the range finder comprises a laser range finder.

15. (Amended) The apparatus according to [any preceding] claim 1, wherein the range finder is bore-sighted with the imaging device.

16. (Amended) The apparatus according to [any preceding] claim 1, wherein the apparatus includes a compass and an inclinometer and/or gyroscope.

17. (Amended) The apparatus according to [any preceding] claim 1, wherein the apparatus further includes a position fixing system for identifying the geographical position of the apparatus.

19. (Amended) The apparatus according to [any preceding] claim 1, wherein the apparatus is operated by remote control.

20. (Amended) The apparatus according to [any preceding] claim 1, wherein the apparatus is controlled by an input device.

28. (Amended) A method according to [any one of] claim[s] 24 [to 27], the method including the further steps of

obtaining a horizontal offset and a vertical offset between an axis of the camera and an axis of the range finder;
calculating the horizontal and vertical offsets in terms of pixels;
calculating the difference between the horizontal and vertical offsets in terms of pixels and the x and y coordinates of the target pixel; and
calculating the horizontal and vertical angles.

29. (Amended) A method according to [any one of] claim[s] 24 [to 28], wherein the method includes the further steps of

providing the range finder and/or camera on a pan and tilt unit;
providing angle encoders to measure the angles of pan and tilt of the unit;
instructing the pan and tilt unit to pan and tilt the range finder and/or camera through the vertical and horizontal angles;
measuring the horizontal and vertical angles using the encoders;
verifying that the angles through which the range finder and/or camera are moved is correct;
obtaining horizontal and/or vertical correction angles by subtracting the measured horizontal and vertical angles from the calculated horizontal and vertical angles;
adjusting the pan and tilt of the range finder and/or camera if necessary; and
activating the range finder to obtain the range to the target..

REMARKS

Amendment to the Claims:

The above amendments to the claims have been made to place the dependency of the claims, which were initially filed in a PCT application in the UK, into proper US claim language. The above amendments are submitted as presenting no new matter and being clearly distinct and patentable over the art of record and therefore Applicant respectfully requests the entry of the amendments by the Examiner.